



7 RED FALL NEWSLETTER



Dear 7 Red families,

We've had many exciting happenings on 7 Red so far this year!

Our Fall Newsletter contains Course updates, Team Communication, Conference Day information, and upcoming events at Oak Middle School.

SCIENCE- Brianna Mondello

We are off to a great start to the school year in Science. Here's a little update in what we have been doing and where we are heading during the first term.

We recently completed the What is Life? Unit, where the students categorized items as "living", "non-living" or "dead". Ask your child how they would categorize a seed into the three categories and why? I'm confident you will be impressed by their responses!

We are currently working on our Microscope skills. The students are learning how to focus a Microscope on three powers of magnification using a Compound Light Microscope. One of the highlights in this unit is viewing living and *moving* organisms under the microscope from the pond in the OMS courtyard.

We are also practicing our Scientific Method skills to think like a Scientist ! After perfecting our Microscope and Scientific Method Skills, we will head into our Cells Unit. In Cells, we will study the importance of the organelles and hold an election for the new 'President of the Cell' when the Nucleus retires.

Science homework is posted daily on Schoology. (See directions noted below for accessing Schoology). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any point during the year; Brianna Mondello bmondello@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us ! And stay posted for more updates and pictures of your children working like true Scientists!

MATH- Lindsay Ventura

Now that the school year is in full swing, students have been busy working on collecting and analyzing data regarding some of the causes and effects of world hunger. Students were placed into groups and each group was given a country that they may have visited during the Heifer field trip. Their task was to collect data on literacy rate, unemployment, and life expectancy over a span of 10 years from their assigned country and the USA. Students then had to find the mean, median, range, IQR from this data and compare their country to the USA by creating double bar graphs and box and whisker plots. We are wrapping up this project with students sharing their findings with the rest of the class. After Columbus Day, we will be starting our new unit called Accentuate the Negative. In this unit, students will learn how to solve problems involving positive and negative numbers.

SOCIAL STUDIES- Carey Davis

Social Studies wrapped up a busy September, and we're now into October with our South America Unit beginning after Columbus Day. During the month of September, students began by reviewing the basics of Geography. Students had one homework assignment (Map About Me), and a Mapping Basics Quiz. In the week leading up to our Heifer Field trip, students learned about Global Poverty (what does poverty mean) and some of the effects of being in extreme poverty. We focused solely on hunger, and how World Hunger is a major global issue. Students learned how Heifer tries to combat hunger through the gift of an animal, and what it can provide for a family in extreme poverty. Post field trip, students began a major project on solving hunger in a specific region of the world (East/Southeast Asia, South Asia, Southern Africa, Western Africa, South America, and Central America). Students were required to research what are causes of hunger in their assigned region, find out what the effects have been, and then design/create a solution to help combat hunger & poverty there. Students had the freedom to choose their method of presentation, with final projects ranging from Google Slides to Skits to iMovies.

When we return from Columbus Day, we'll begin our unit with mapping out the continent, and familiarize ourselves with the countries and capitals. We'll then study how people in South America adapt to living in the Andes Mountains. What differences are there for families who live at the base of the mountains versus the top? What differences and adaptations are there for families in the Andes versus families in Shrewsbury? Our second and final unit of study for South America will be focusing on the Amazon Rainforest. Students will learn about the various groups in Brazil who would like control over portions of the forest, including the Native Amazonians, Loggers, Farmers, Cattle Ranchers, Miners, Rubber Tappers, and Environmentalists. We'll be holding a Court Trial, and students will take on the role of one of the seven groups just mentioned. Students will argue their cases (before Judge Davis, of course!) as to why they feel they should have control and rights over land in the Amazon.

Lastly, the first Current Events meet will take place towards the end of October. Current Events Meets are held for 30 minutes during 2nd period, and occur 3 - 4 times over the course of the school year. Ten students from each team (both 7th and 8th grade) meet in the Cafeteria with Robert Dun, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, and Mrs. Davis to take the Current Events Quizzes. They consist of 30 questions ranging from politics to entertainment news to sports over a several month period. The Current Events teams are completely voluntary, and the 10 representing 7 Red this year are: Anthony Biscotti, Charlotte Harnois, Patrick Hastings, Aariz Hussain, Timothy Marshall, Connor Mongeon, Mourya Mukka, Dan Reilly, Nishita Roy, and Ernie Zhang.

If you have any questions about the Geography Curriculum or would like to reach Mrs. Davis;
cdavis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

LANGUAGE ARTS- Kyle Wells

Our Nonfiction unit started with students learning about different text features and structures of nonfiction writing, as well as different reading strategies to help them understand nonfiction writing. Students have put these skills to use while doing biographical research on people of their choice to find

answers to the question: “What makes a person successful?”. They are beginning to write short essays highlighting one of the traits they found leads to success. This project will culminate with students coming together to create iMovie trailers that show similarities they found in researching success.

Our next unit of study will be on Persuasion. Students will work throughout the month of October to continue to develop their research skills in order to find all available means of persuasion. The unit will wrap up in mid November with a final Persuasive Essay.

ESSENTIALS ELA- Yusra Khan

Since the beginning of school, we have been working on a nonfiction unit. Students have been learning how to differentiate between fiction and nonfiction. We have learned about the elements of nonfiction texts and what their purpose is. Students completed a project in which they read historical fiction children’s books and identified which parts were based on real facts and which parts were made up. Based on that, they created stories of their own based on real information learned through their Heifer projects. Since then, we have been practicing how to “UNRAVEL”, or dissect, news articles as another way of analyzing nonfiction pieces. Students are determining the author’s purpose for writing the article, as a way to improve reading comprehension.

In the coming weeks, we will begin a unit on persuasive writing, where students will demonstrate their ability to write with purpose. Students will analyze a topic, and will form their own opinions on it. Based on their stance, they will write a convincing argument with textual evidence to support their claims.

Role of Special Education Teacher- Anne Murphy

In addition to teaching two small group math classes, the Special Education teacher also teaches a Learning Skills class for students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The students attend Learning Skills class in lieu of a foreign language where they receive individualized instruction from the Special Education teacher, the classroom aid or the child specific aid in a small group setting.. The Special Education teacher in conjunction with the aids attends classes with the students in order to support them and to provide the accommodations that are outlined in the IEP so that they can access the curriculum. Although the priority is to support the students who have an IEP, the teacher and the aids provide assistance to all of the students in the class by clarifying instructions, asking guided questions during group work and facilitating instruction along with the classroom teacher. The Special Education Teacher also provides academic testing to specific students as a part of their 3 year re-evaluation and is the liaison for annual IEP meetings.

Sincerely,

The 7 Red Team Teachers

Brianna Mondello, Carey Davis, Lindsay Ventura, Kyle Wells, Anne Murphy and Yusra Khan

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We strive to communicate with parents regularly. This year, we have several ways that you can stay in touch.

1. EMAIL We all check our email throughout the day. If you have a question or concern or if you want to make us aware of something that involves your child, please email your child's homeroom teacher. If you want to email the full team you can also use the team email address at the bottom. Keep in mind that the email will go to all 5 of us, foreign language teachers and allied arts teachers.
2. SCHOOLGY is our main portal for communication with students and parents. We post homework here daily as well as documents and directions needed for class. Some, but not all, assignments are turned in using Schoology. This will give you some idea of when your student may be missing work, but is not a full picture. If work completion is an issue, we will be sure to contact you.
3. Follow us on INSTAGRAM – @7RedOMS
4. Like us on FACEBOOK – 7 Red OMS
5. Follow us on SNAPCHAT - oms7red Homework, Reminders and photos from team activities will be posted here regularly

Team Email Contacts:

Language Arts: kwells@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Math: lventura@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Geography: cdavis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Science: bmondello@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Special Ed. & Essentials Math: amurphy@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Essentials ELA: ykhan@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

7 Red Team: 7red@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

To get connected to Schoology as a Parent:

**Do not go to Schoology.com!*

Go to this link: <http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/it/schoology.cfm>

On the left click on “**Schoology Parent Instructions**”.

Once you are in you can look at any group or course your child belongs to.

We also suggest you go into the **Power School Parent Portal** (same link as above) to be sure all of your information (email, phone numbers, address) are up to date. It is important to keep your email address up to date to continue to get our newsletters and updates.

CONFERENCE DAY

Parent conference day is coming up on November 8th. On 7 Red, we conduct traditional conferences, during which we invite parents to come in and meet with the team teachers as a group. Because of this, we do not meet with all families on conference day. We will soon begin contacting parents who we feel it is necessary to schedule a conference with at this time. We are also happy to take requests if you would like to meet with the team. If we run out of time on November 8th, we are able to schedule meetings before or after parent conference day at our regular meeting time: 9:55-10:20. We are available throughout the year if concerns come up at a later time. Please contact your student's homeroom teacher if you would like to schedule a conference in November.

Upcoming events at OMS

October 7th- Professional Development Day - No School for students

October 10th- Columbus Day- No School

October 14th- Picture Retake Day

October 18th- *If Only* film screening. See trailer here:

<http://www.markwahlbergeryouthfoundation.com/if-only/>

November 8th- Parent Conference Day (Election Day)- No school for students

7 Red Team Photos

Heifer Field Trip





Is It Alive? Science Lab

